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REDUCING THE RISK OF FUTURE FLOOD DAMAGE: A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

PITTSBURGH – Over 50 elected officials and agency representatives from local, county, regional, state, and federal government with an interest in flood damage reduction and recovery programs in southwest Pennsylvania have responded to an invitation to attend a meeting hosted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District on Friday, October 22, 2004. The meeting will include presentations by the Corps of Engineers as well as five other federal and state agencies: the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, PENNVEST, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Presentations will address the question, “***What actions can be taken now to reduce the risk of flood damage in the future?***” in light of the record rainfall and flood event on tributary streams experienced on September 17-18, 2004.

The meeting will also provide an opportunity to consult with Corps of Engineers staff and other agency officials in an “Open House” setting to obtain more detailed information about available programs and funding to assist with recovery efforts and future flood damage reduction initiatives. An effective response to the recent floods requires coordination of policies, programs and resources from all levels of government, in conjunction with decisions to be made and actions to be taken by the private sector, so that restoration and greater protection of communities by reducing risk of flooding can be achieved.

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